

RESOLUTION NO. 207-17

[SUPPORTING A STRONG BLM NATURAL GAS WASTE RULE AIMED AT CUTTING METHANE] [WASTE OCCUING ON FEDERAL AND TRIBAL LANDS]

WHEREAS, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is an unincorporated Tribe of Indians, having accepted the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, with the exception of Section 16; and the recognized governing body of the Tribe is known as the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe authorize and empowers the Tribal Council to engage in activities on behalf of and in the interest of the welfare and benefit of the Tribe and the enrolled members thereof; and

WHEREAS, Article III of the Constitution of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe provides that the Tribal Council is the governing body of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management [BLM] is the Federal regulatory partner for the oil and gas fracking program and for all oil wells drilled on trust lands within the exterior boundary of the Indian Reservation; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 the BLM initiated the revision process of the BLM Fracking, Venting, and Leaking of Natural Gas on Federal and Indian Lands and released the final rule in the Fall 2016 titled: "Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation," (www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?publd&RIN=1004-Ae14); and

WHEREAS, on the average the Bakken produces 354,759,732 MCF of natural gas over a five-year average; and

WHEREAS, on the average 719,413,804 MCF has been vented flared or leaked over a five-year period; and

WHEREAS, the beneficial language in the BLM revised rule "Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation" will reduce the tonnage of volume of natural gas and its major component methane from being flared, vented [dumped] and leaked into the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, Flaring and venting emits over 250 toxins that have been identified as being produced and released during flaring, such as benzene, toluene, and xylene; and

WHEREAS, Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas that is about 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Methane accounts for nine percent of a U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, and almost one third of that is estimated to come from oil and gas operations. U.S. methane emissions are projected to rise substantially unless additional steps are taken to lower them; and

WHEREAS, the Journal of the American Medical Association [JAMA] finds that asthma is a common disease with large individual and societal burdens, so the possibility that Unconventional Natural Gas Development may increase risk asthma exacerbation requires public health attention; and

WHEREAS, per scientific data compiled by 350.org, a two degree increase in global warming is the limit, before cascade of unstoppable atmosphere events will risk all eco-systems of earth; and

WHEREAS, eighteen scientific organizations issued a 2009 letter that stated "...if we are to avoid the most severe impacts of climate change, emissions of greenhouse gases must dramatically reduced..."; and

WHEREAS, Standing Rock Indian Reservation is downstream on the Missouri River of significant oil and gas development; and

WHEREAS, the BLM Natural Gas Waste Rule recognize Tribal sovereignty by including a provision that preserves the right for Tribes to enact their own rules to cut waste that meet or exceed national standards;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council supports clean air and opposes all attempts to weaken, dismantle, or overrule regulation that would impede the BLM from full enforcement of methane reduction rules; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council supports the final BLM methane reduction rule titled "Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairman and Secretary of the Tribal Council are hereby authorized and instructed to sign this resolution for and on behalf of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, Chairman and Secretary of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of 17 members, of whom 11 constituting a quorum, were present at a meeting duly and regularly called, noticed, convened and held on the 27th day of **APRIL, 2017**, and that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the affirmative vote of 10 members, with 0 opposing, and with 1 not voting. **THE CHAIRMAN'S VOTE IS NOT REQUIRED EXCEPT IN CASE OF A TIE.**

DATED THIS 27th DAY OF APRIL, 2017.

ATTEST:



Adele M. White, Secretary
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe



Dave Archambault II, Chairman
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

[OFFICIAL TRIBAL SEAL]

Meeting Date: 04/27/2017
Motion No. 19